



You're Never Too Young to Care

Join the Care Bears Caring Team for National Care Week

Dear Preschool Teacher,

Youth Media International, in cooperation with American Greetings, is pleased to provide you with this special kit featuring the Care Bears as ambassadors for National Care Week, to be celebrated November 9-15, 2003. This special week offers you, your students and their parents a very special opportunity to engage in caring, sharing and learning activities, as the Care Bears teach kids that they're never too young to care. **Teachers whose classes participate in collecting pennies for a good cause (or "team up" in other caring ways) will have a chance at national recognition by returning the enclosed reply card by October 8, 2003, indicating the activities in which your students will be taking part. The first 100 respondents will receive \$100 worth of Care Bears educational supplies, including a "Create Your Own Storybook." See www.Care-Bears.com for details.**

You may remember the Care Bears from your own childhood. They are truly special characters, each with its own unique personality, that make it easy for children to think about and understand their own emotions. Care Bears can help you address students' social and emotional development and also enhance language skills through the communication of feelings.

The activities in this kit are designed especially for preschool children to give them a foundation for an attitude of lifelong caring. The activities also foster learning and developmental skills in recognizing letters, counting and matching.

Activity 3 provides an opportunity for students to decide together on a class caring activity. This activity is designed to demonstrate how easily we can show we care, and may qualify your class for special recognition. It will also involve parents in an awareness of National Care Week, and encourage children to find ways to show caring at home. The poster is designed for monthly use to reinforce the habit of caring. In order to return your reply card by October 8, 2003, you may wish to plan for these activities at least 10 days in advance of that deadline. Please use this program with your students even if you choose not to participate in the class recognition extension.

The material in this kit is copyrighted; however, you may make as many copies as necessary to meet your students' needs. We also encourage you to share the materials freely with other teachers in your preschool.

Sincerely,

Roberta Nusim

Roberta Nusim, Publisher

Program Objectives

- ✦ To build awareness of and participation in National Care Week.
- ✦ To provide this six-month program as a means of building a life-long habit of caring.
- ✦ To engage children in expressing their emotions as they identify with various Care Bears personalities.
- ✦ To reinforce counting, letter and number recognition skills.

Target Audience

This kit is designed for preschool students. Simplify the material as you see fit for two-year-olds.

How To Use This Guide

Review the materials and schedule the activities into your classroom lessons. **Activity 1** will help children identify ways they can demonstrate friendship and caring behavior.

Activity 2 uses the Care Bear characters to engage children in letter and number recognition and in counting. In **Activity 3**, children match a word to the image it represents, and then think about how they can show caring for animals, people, or nature.

From this activity, the class should decide what they will do as a group to collect pennies for a good cause or otherwise participate in National Care Week. Copy both sides of the take-home information sheet, write the activity idea on the back, and give the sheet to your students to take home. Then submit your plans on the enclosed reply card by October 8, 2003, in order to make your class eligible for special recognition. Use the Resources List to find ideas for student sharing and caring opportunities throughout the year.

How To Use the Poster

Place the poster in a prominent location in your classroom to help build interest in National Care Week. The poster contains simple ideas for each day of National Care Week this year, as well as suggestions for activities you can do as a class in each succeeding month to keep the focus on caring. Fill in any activities the class has done each month in the space provided.

Activity 1. If I Were a Care Bear

This activity is designed to help your students begin thinking about what it means to be a caring person. After distributing a copy of the activity master to each of your students, lead a discussion about the things each Care Bear might do to show he or she cares, and what each child might do if he or she were that Care Bear. Following is a little background about the Care Bears to help you get started.



The Care Bears

The Care Bears live in a star-speckled, rainbow-trimmed, cotton candy world called Care-a-lot. In everything they do, they teach the importance of caring for others and sharing their special feelings. Each Care Bear represents a feelings- or caring-based relationship that is illustrated by a bright-colored symbol on its tummy. The Care Bears are:

Cheer Bear. Cheer Bear is an optimist who gives encouragement to those who don't feel well. Cheer Bear is pink, and she has a rainbow on her tummy.

Wish Bear. Wish Bear is creative and intuitive and encourages others to work to make their dreams come true. Wish Bear is aqua, and she has a shooting star on her tummy.

Share Bear. Share Bear is the most unselfish and giving of all the Care Bears. Share Bear is lavender, and she has twin lollipops on her tummy.

Funshine Bear. Funshine Bear, the "class clown" of the Care Bears, loves to help others laugh and have fun. Funshine Bear is yellow, and he has a smiling sun on his tummy.

Tenderheart Bear. Tenderheart Bear is sensitive and shows people how to share their good feelings with others. Tenderheart Bear is brown, and he has a heart on his tummy.

Bedtime Bear. Bedtime Bear likes to help others—especially kids—get a good night's sleep and plenty of rest. Bedtime Bear is blue, and he has a moon on his tummy.

Grumpy Bear. Grumpy Bear shows us that being in a bad mood is okay sometimes, but that it's silly to let our grumpiness go too far. Grumpy Bear is blue, and he has a rain cloud on his tummy.

Friend Bear. Friend Bear is outgoing and likes to show others how to be a good friend. Friend Bear is peach, with two flowers on her tummy.

Love-a-lot Bear. Love-a-lot Bear is spunky, emotional, and has lots of love to share. Love-a-lot Bear is pink, with two hearts on her tummy.

Good Luck Bear. Good Luck Bear is self-confident and likes to share his good luck with others. Good Luck Bear is green, and he has a four-leafed clover on his tummy.



Talk with your students about the tummy graphic for each bear and how it helps us understand what that bear represents. To reinforce their meaning, play a matching game with your students. Help them name emotions that go with each graphic. Then, during small-group time, help your students decide what kind of Care Bear they would be. What name would they pick for their Care Bear? What traits would they like to have? What color would they be? What special picture would they have on their tummy? Allow time for each student to tell about his or her Care Bear and to personalize the picture on the activity master. Then, help each child write the name of their Care Bear under the picture.

You also can use this activity to reinforce your students' knowledge of colors. As you talk about each Care Bear, help your students find its picture on the activity master. Then, ask them to select the right color crayon for that Care Bear. For example, "What color is Funshine Bear? Funshine Bear is yellow. Let's color Funshine Bear yellow."

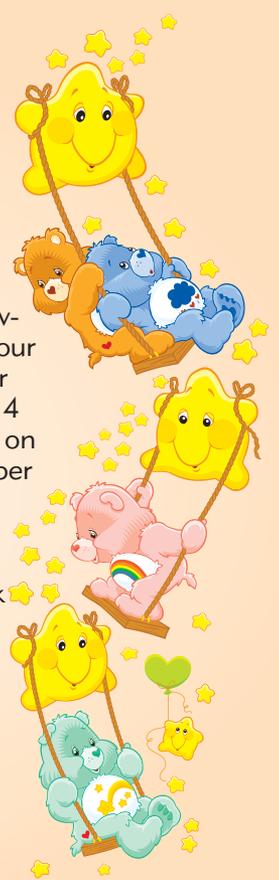
Activity 2. C is for Caring... and Counting, Too!

After you distribute one activity master to each student, read the title and the poem aloud, then review with your class the different caring traits that the Care Bears can help them learn. Then, tell the students that, in this activity, the Care Bears will help them learn their letters and numbers. First, help students say the first letter of their own name. Then, as you go through the Care Bears' names, help students say the letter each name starts with. When you have named all the Care Bears, help students tell you which ones have the same beginning letter in their names. Have the children stand in groups with the other students who have the same first letter in their names. Give each group a blank piece of paper and help the group members print their names on it.

To begin the second part of the activity, help each group count the names on their paper, then write that number on their paper. After

each group has a chance to tell their classmates how big their group is, write the names of the Care Bears on a sheet of paper and help students count them. (Students will discover that there are 10 Care Bears.) Next, help your students find the group on their activity master that contains 4 Care Bears. Write the number 4 on the board and have each child write a "4" on his or her paper. Repeat the appropriate number for each group of Care Bears. Your students can then color the Care Bears, letters and numbers. If your students are collecting pennies, you can have them count and then stack them in groups 10 high.

You also can use this activity to focus on letter sounds by helping students name other classroom objects that begin with the "b" sound in bear. You might repeat this for each Care Bear's name, reminding students about each one's caring traits.



Activity 3. I'm On the Care Bears Caring Team!

To begin this activity, talk with your students about the importance of caring. Remind them that, even though they will be celebrating a special National Care Week, caring is important all year long. Read the three words on the activity master to your students, then have them draw a line from each word to the image it represents. Now have students brainstorm all the different ways they could show caring for animals, people or nature both in the classroom and at home by collecting pennies for their chosen cause or by other things they can do. Write down their ideas as the students name them and post the list in the classroom. Lead a class discussion to decide which of the ideas they want to adopt for National Care Week. On the back of the "Dear Parent" information sheet, record the class choice of activity and give each of your students a copy to take home to invite parent involvement. Then have the class color in the three images.



Did You Know... When the Statue of Liberty was being built by France, America's contribution—the pedestal—was stalled due to lack of funding. American school children raised approximately \$10,000 of the \$100,000 needed to complete it. Recently, a Kids Care Club in a German elementary school started a *Read for Refugee Children* project to buy blankets for people in Afghanistan in their belief that you should "treat everyone the way you want to be treated." You're never too young to care!

Resource List: Web Sites

★ **Official Web Site of the Care Bears:** www.Care-Bears.com

The following sites are good sources of ideas for service projects kids can do:

★ Kids Care Clubs (Points of Light Foundation): <http://www.kidscare.org>

★ Humane Society of the United States: <http://www.hsus.org>

★ Youth Service America: <http://www.ysa.org>

Stories About Helping

★ *The Can-Do Thanksgiving*, by Marion Hess Pomeranc. Morton Grove, IL: Albert Whitman, 1998. (Helping the hungry)

★ *Ducks Disappearing*, by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1997. (Helping animals)

★ *Fernando's Gift*, by Douglas Keister. San Francisco: Sierra Club Books for Children, 1995. (Helping the environment)



Youth Media
International Ltd.
P.O. Box 1129, New York, NY 10163
(212) 286-1000
www.youthmedia.com



Care Bears, Cheer Bear, Wish Bear, Share Bear, Funshine Bear, Tenderheart Bear, Bedtime Bear, Grumpy Bear, Friend Bear, Love-a-lot Bear, Good Luck Bear, Care-a-lot are trademarks of ©2003 Those Characters From Cleveland, Inc. Used under license by Youth Media International, Ltd. © TCFC

If I Were a Care Bear...



Love-a-lot
Bear



Cheer Bear



Wish Bear

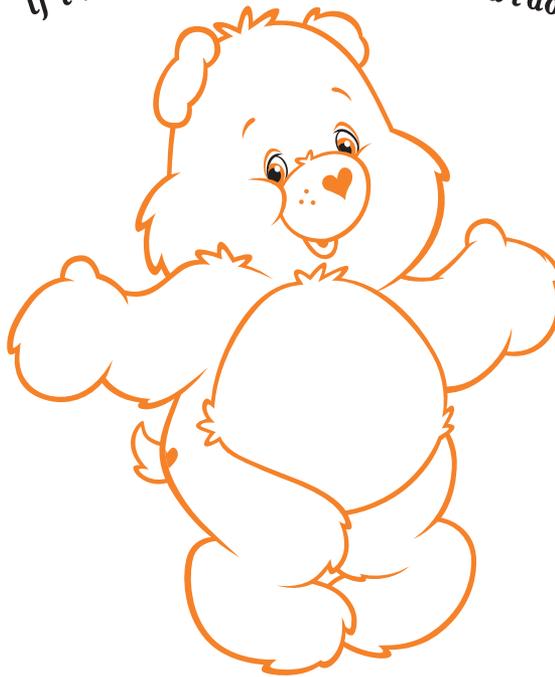
If I were a Care Bear, what would I do?
Would I be like Wish Bear and help dreams come true?
Would I be like Friend Bear, so loyal and true?
If I were a Care Bear, what would I do?



Tenderheart Bear



Share Bear



Good Luck Bear



Grumpy Bear



Funshine
Bear



Friend
Bear



Bedtime Bear



C is for Caring... and Counting, Too!

Activity

2

Reproducible Master

The Care Bears are here to tell us about
Numbers and letters without a doubt.
They help us try each day to share
And help us learn as well, to care!





Activity

3

Reproducible Master

National Care Week is a
time to show how much we care.
Join the Care Bears on
the Caring Team!



I'm On the Care Bears Caring Team!

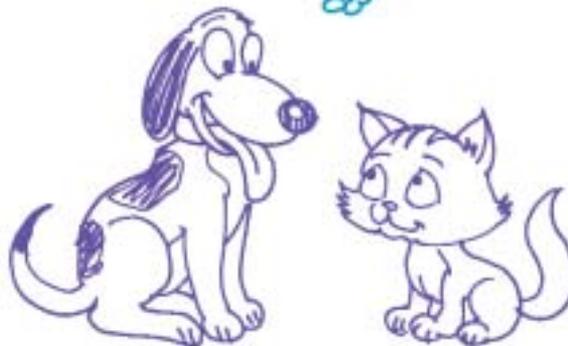
animals



people



nature



Dear Parent,

As the parent of a preschooler, you may remember the Care Bears from your own childhood. They are truly special characters, each with his or her very own personality.

The 10 Care Bears, which include characters such as Tenderheart Bear, Cheer Bear, Friend Bear—and even Grumpy Bear—make it easy for children to think about and understand their own emotions. And, their message about caring and sharing may be even more relevant in today's complex world than it was 20 years ago, when the Care Bears were introduced.

November 9-15, 2003, has been designated as National Care Week—a time to celebrate the importance of caring and sharing. As part of our celebration at school to kick off National Care Week, we are introducing several learning activities that involve the Care Bears. We are talking about the ways we can show others that we care—sharing, being a good friend, and being kind, sensitive and supportive of others.

To make National Care Week an even more meaningful learning experience, your child's class has chosen an activity that they would like to do together, with your help, so that they can begin to develop a lifelong habit of caring. The activity is listed on the *Committed to Caring Certificate* on the other side of this sheet. You can make it "official" by helping your child decorate the certificate. Then, have fun with your child doing this activity!

When you have completed the activity, give yourselves a pat on the back—color in the gold star in the bottom corner of the certificate! Then, encourage your child to continue caring and sharing. Find a volunteer activity that you can get involved in together and do something to show that your family cares! Local churches and service organizations, for example, may have projects you can do. Each time your child does an "act of caring," list it in the space at the side of the certificate and color in another star. Here are some ideas:

- ★ Have your child make get-well cards for sick children in the hospital.
- ★ Donate toys your child has outgrown to children who don't have any to play with.
- ★ Recycle soda cans from home or school, and donate the money to a good cause.
- ★ Get pledges for a trike-a-thon and see how many laps of the playground your child can ride—then donate the pledge money to a favorite charity.

We've also listed a few Web sites below that contain helpful hints and project ideas. We hope you will take advantage of this National Care Week celebration to participate as a family in year-round caring and sharing activities.

Resource List

- ★ **Official Web Site of the Care Bears: www.Care-Bears.com**
- ★ ZOOM Into Action Family Guide to Volunteering
<http://pbskids.org/zoom/too/action>
- ★ Family Cares: <http://www.familycares.org>
- ★ Volunteer Center National Network
http://www.volunteerconnections.org/VCP_volunteercentermap.cfm

OUR FAMILY IS COMMITTED TO CARING

As part of the
National Care Week
celebration,
our family will:

My Acts of Kindness Checklist

- ★ _____
- ★ _____
- ★ _____
- ★ _____
- ★ _____
- ★ _____
- ★ _____
- ★ _____

The Care Bears Care
and We Care, Too!

Join the Care Bears Caring Team for National Care Week

November 9-15, 2003



Good Luck Bear



Share Bear



Plan National Care Week activities.

Sunday

National Care Week kicks off! Do something nice for your mom.

Monday

Make a new friend in class.

Tuesday

Cheer up a friend who is sad.

Wednesday

Give your pet a special treat.

Thursday

Give someone a hug.

Friday

You did a great job caring!

Saturday

Share your good deeds with your family.

CARE BEARS CARE ALL YEAR LONG—AND YOU CAN, TOO!



Wish Bear

October

National Clock Month
It's time to turn the clocks back—but plan ahead for National Care Week!

Our class will: _____



Grumpy Bear

November

National Child Safety Week
Take cookies to the fire station.

Funshine Bear



December

First Day of Winter
Make a feeder for the birds outside your classroom window.

January

National Eye Care Month
Collect used eyeglasses for the Lions Club.



Tenderheart Bear

February

Valentine's Day
Make cards for your classmates.

March

St. Patrick's Day
Take cans of green veggies to the person in your town who is in charge of helping to feed the homeless.



Love-a-lot Bear

April

National Library Week
Donate books to the local library.



Cheer Bear

May

Be Kind to Animals Week
Hold a Pennies for Pets drive to buy pet food or animal toys for the local shelter.



Bedtime Bear

Any Time During the Year

- ★ Make get-well cards for sick children in the hospital.
- ★ Donate toys you have outgrown to children who don't have any to play with.
- ★ Recycle soda cans from home or school, and donate the money to a good cause.
- ★ Get pledges for a trike-a-thon and see how many laps of the playground you can make—then donate the pledge money to a favorite charity.



Friend Bear

You're Never Too Young To Care!